

“Pregnancies have safely been carried to term after laminaria insertion and removal, but late onset intrauterine infection or chorioamnionitis is a concern. Counseling is used to be sure the patient understands her risks once she starts the dilatation process.” Source: **eMedicine Journal**, September 14 2001, Volume 2, Number 9: <http://www.emedicine.com/MED/topic5.htm>

Notes on laminaria:

?? **Laminaria.** Dried seaweed of the genus Laminaria is often used to help dilate the cervix. Laminaria is an effective and relatively painless method, and it decreases the risk of cervical laceration or perforation, reducing mortality by nearly 50 percent. The laminaria are placed in the cervix to help it begin dilating. Usually, most of the cervical expansion occurs by six hours, but maximum dilation does not occur until 12-24 hours after placement of the laminaria.

Source:

http://thriveonline.oxygen.com/sex/abortion/surgical_methods.html

“Removal of laminaria at the patient's request, and against medical advise, may cause bleeding, cramping, fever, infection, spontaneous pregnancy loss, and/or other complications.

*** By signing the 2nd trimester consent for abortion and laminaria insertion, it is understood that you are aware, understand, and agree to the following:**

1. Laminaria insertion begins the abortion process.
2. You must return to this office at designated times. Failure to return for laminaria removal may lead to serious medical complications.
3. You must stay in the dallas area until your abortion procedure is complete.
4. Removal of laminaria at the patient's request, and against medical advise, may cause bleeding, cramping, fever, infection, spontaneous pregnancy loss, and/or other complications.

Laminaria Insertion Procedure:

Laminaria tents (sponge - like sticks) are used to begin to dilate or open the cervix (the entrance to the uterus). Laminaria are placed into the cervix during a ten minutes procedure on the day of your initial visit. These laminaria stay in the

cervix overnight, absorbing fluids from the cervix. This causes the laminaria to swell and double or triple their original size. By your next scheduled appointment your cervix should be soft and beginning to open.

Laminaria Insertion Procedure, Day 2:

At today 's visit you will have the laminaria inserted on day one removed and new laminaria inserted. This allows the cervix to continue to soften and dilate. The farther along the pregnancy, the more the cervix needs to dilate, or open, to allow for easy evacuation of the pregnancy. Source:

<http://www.abortionadvantage.com/beyond24.html>

? "Removal of the laminaria tent(s) at the request of the patient and against medical advice may lead to bleeding, cramping, fever, spontaneous abortion and/or other minor/major medical complications for which hospitalization may be required. Refunds to patients at the time of the laminaria removal will not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the collected fee." Source:

<http://www.gynpages.com/aaronwhc/3.html>

"Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed an instructional program and have supervised clinical practice are allowed to manually insert (and remove) laminaria sponges in order to dilate the cervix."

Source: http://www.azboardofnursing.org/insertion_removal_sponge.htm

PATIENT CONSENT FOR LAMINARIA PRIOR TO ABORTION

I, _____, hereby consent and authorize the physician, or whomever he designates as his/her assistants, to insert a laminaria tent for the purpose of cervical dilation proceeding my abortion.

I am also aware that I am responsible to return tomorrow, unless otherwise designated, to Akron Center for Choice for the removal of the laminaria at the time designated by this office, and understand the risks and complications if I do not return at the time designated by office.

I have read the Patient Informed Consent and understand the risks and complications involved in an abortion, realize and understand the risks and

complications with the laminaria, understand the risks and complications if I do not return at the time designated by this office.

I have been given a list of instructions to follow until I return to this office for the abortion procedure and I agree to follow them.

Patient Signature: _____ Witness:

Parent or Guardian _____ Date

Source: <http://www.akroncenter.com/plams.htm>

"For example, for some women who elect to undergo an abortion, clinic medical personnel prescribe and insert a pre-abortion laminaria to achieve cervical dilation. In these instances, timely removal of the laminaria is necessary to avoid infection, bleeding and other potentially serious complications. If a 'rescue' demonstration closes a clinic, patients requiring the laminaria removal procedure or other vital medical services must either postpone the required treatment and assume the attendant risks or seek the services elsewhere.

Source: SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 90-985

JAYNE BRAY, et al., PETITIONERS v. ALEXANDRIA WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC et al.

on writ of certiorari to the united states court of appeals for the fourth circuit

[January 13, 1993]

<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/90-985.ZD.html>
